

--REMARKS --

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 19 are currently amended.

Claim 20 has been canceled.

Claims 2-18 are original claims.

THE REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112 second paragraph. It is believed that the amendment to claims 1 and 19 render the outstanding rejection moot.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 USC § 101 as claiming the same invention of claim 20 of prior US Patent No. 6,740,436. Applicants' have now canceled claim 20 therefore withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.


Claims 1-19 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-19 of US patent No. 6,740,436. Concurrently with this amendment Applicant is filing a terminal disclaimer. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is courteously traversed.

The prior art cited in pages 4 and 5 appears to be related, yet is not relevant to the claimed subject matter.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 703-418-2777 if he feels that further discussion may facilitate the resolution of any outstanding issues.

An early indication of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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